

MAINE STATE Labor News



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Safety Conference Told Of Fight Against Work Injuries In Maine

York Harbor. — A 28 per cent reduction in work injuries since 1951 by Maine's manufacturing industries was reported as a vital part of the program for Maine industry, at the 28th annual Maine State Safety Conference at York Harbor, September 15 and 16.

Marion E. Martin of Bangor, commissioner of Labor and Industry, said the injury frequency rate in Maine manufacturing was 24.4 disabling work injuries per million hours worked in 1951, compared to 17.6 in 1954. Manufacturing is the only industry prior to the 1955 legislative session covered by the department's inspection safety law.

Fatalities Rise

The conference learned that the year-end rate for 1954 of 17.6 was bettered by the rate of 17.1 for the first six months of 1955.

It was explained that the decrease occurred as the result of "a more than seasonal decrease

in injuries in the first quarter of this year."

Official figures show that occupational fatalities reported to the State Industrial Accident Commission so far this year are within five of attaining the level reached for the full year of 1954.

There were 29 fatalities in 1954, 10 of which were in manufacturing industries and 19 in non-manufacturing activities, officials said, and so far in 1955 there have been eight fatalities in manufacturing, 16 in non-manufacturing — a total of 24.

Bangor Sea Bee Unit Has Ratings Open For Qualified Construction Men

Lt. Richard "B" Jacobs, USN, Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Reserve Training Center, 402 Essex Street, Bangor, Me., announced today that the Naval Reserve is seeking Construction Tradesmen for a few openings in the famous "Seabee Reserve", the Navy's Construction Battalions in the Bangor area. "In the light of the need to maintain as part of our Armed Forces a strong reserve force of skilled tradesmen" Lt. Jacobs stated, "it would be helpful to have Construction Mechanics and Building Contractors build the Bangor Seabee Reserve up to the authorized peace-time strength."

Sixty Trades

In the Seabee Reserve Program qualified construction men in sixty different trades may become part of this construction man's outfit and get a Navy rating equal to their civilian skills. A journeyman with 10 years experience in his trade can qualify for a Chief Petty Officer's rating. The skilled tradesman may become as active in the Seabee Reserve as he wishes. (1) as a member of the inactive reserve pool, he is

not required to attend drills and is not liable for active duty except when Congress declares a need for his service. If he desires, he may request enrollment in the Volunteer or Organized Seabee Reserve. (2) As a Volunteer Reservist he participates on a no pay basis in one or more meetings a month, engaging in semi-technical seminar type discussions related to the overseas building operations of the Seabees. He may request and possibly receive two weeks annual training duty with pay at Illinois, California or Rhode Island. (3) As a member of an Organized Seabee Company the construction craftsman will attend 48 weekly evening drills annually.

Annual Leave

He will receive one full days pay of his rating for each 2½ hour drill. He will take 14 days annual training duty with pay, subsistence and travel allowance. His uniforms are furnished without charge. He may request two years of active duty building and maintaining the Navy's overseas shore bases. For information on how to associate with the Seabee Reserve or the Training Center urges all interested construction men to call him personally, Bangor-6070 or visit the Naval Reserve Training Center, 402 Essex Street, Bangor, Me.

Fewer Strikes But More Workers Out

Fewer work stoppages occurred in July than in the preceding month and man-days of idleness also declined, according to preliminary estimates of the Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics. The 425 new stoppages estimated for the month compares with 500 in June and 370 in July 1954.

The number of workers involved in the July stoppages index was the second in two months, reversing a year-long very slight or no change trend.

Home Costs High

Seasonally higher prices for fresh fruits and increases in the costs of housing, personal care, medical care and other goods and services paced the latest advance in living costs.

The department reported that residential rents, household operation, medical care and personal care are currently at their highest levels.

UNION'S STORE HELPS TO SETTLE STRIKES

Mulberry, Fla. — A union-owned and operated grocery store is paying off in contract victories for the AFL Chemical Workers in its strike against Florida phosphate plants.

The union had been engaged in strikes against eight plants in the area when it decided to take over an old company commissary and stock it with foods of all kinds. Funds were raised from the striking locals and the international union.

Since establishment of the store three strikes have been settled. Meanwhile striking workers have been able to use credit clips issued by the locals to buy groceries "on the arm" to tide them over the rough spots during the strike.

GO AHEAD AND BET; YOU CAN'T BE FIRED

The American worker can make any appearance he wants to and not lose his job, so long as his looks don't affect his work or injure his employer. This is the ruling of an unemployment insurance referee in New York, who awarded unemployment compensation to a hotel swimming pool attendant.

The worker was fired because he grew a beard. The referee found that "there is nothing repulsive about a Van Dyke beard." It was grown by the swimming pool worker to help him earn additional money posing for art classes. His employer ordered him to shave it off. He refused and was fired.

Pulp And Paper Council Meets In Madawaska

Fall Meeting To Act On Important Issues

One of the most important fall meetings for the unions in the Pulp and Paper Industry will be held in the American Legion Hall, October 8 and 9, 1955, at Madawaska, Maine. Proposals that will be adopted and brought back to the local unions for their discussion through the winter months will formulate the over-all policies for the industry.

Headquarters for the Maine District Council of Pulp and Paper Mill Unions will be the National Hotel. A banquet scheduled for Sunday afternoon will be held at the Pine Tree Restaurant.

Invitations have been extended to Governor Muskie, Mr. George W. Brooks, Research Director of the International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite

and Paper Mill Workers; Mr. Aubrey Crabtree, President of Fraser Papers, Limited; and Vice-Presidents Fred Rochford of the Paper Makers and Ralph W. Leatt of the Pulp Workers International Union and a representative of the town of Madawaska.

The program will begin Saturday evening with a business meeting and continue to Sunday morning. Following the business session Sunday morning a banquet will be held at which a prominent list of speakers will be heard. Indications are that a large delegation will be in attendance from the Pulp and Paper Mill Unions in the State of Maine. Arrangements have been made with the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad for chartered busses to take delegates to this fall meeting.

Factory - Worker Prisoners Say "No Dice" To Prison Camp Propaganda

Washington. — Organized labor's dedicated 35-year fight against Communist subversion of the trade union movement paid off in the prisoner-of-war camps in Korea.

American factory workers

reared in the democratic tradition of the trade unions and familiar with the Communist "line", stood up stoutly and successfully to vicious attempts to win them over to the Communist program.

The Secretary of Defense's Advisory Committee on Prisoners of War, which reviewed the problem arising from the Korean War and recommended a code of conduct for GIs, said in its report:

"The Red indoctrinators tried hard to win the support of factory workers. But as one of them put it, 'We'd heard all that guff before. Back home. We knew their line.' Knowledge was a defense weapon."

NLRB RULES AGAINST STRIKE BALLOT POLL

Washington. — The National Labor Relations Board has ruled 3 to 2 that a company cannot insist that both union and non-union workers be polled on contract changes or a strike.

The board handed down its decision in a case involving the Wooster, Ohio, Division of Borg-Warner Corp. and the CIO Auto Workers. The decision held that the company failed to bargain in good faith by demanding a secret vote among all its workers on contract changes.

Union Acts For All

The board majority said Congress, when it enacted labor-management legislation, intended that a union chosen by a majority of employees would act for all employees in a bargaining unit.

"Insistence on a strike ballot clause means only that the union must dilute its authority, diffuse its responsibility and ultimately dissipate its strength. This clearly is not the purview or purpose of the collective bargaining required by the act."

LAWYERS CONDEMN ANTI-STRIKE LAWS

Washington. — Federal and state laws denying government workers the right to strike have been proved "ill-advised and unworkable," an American Bar Association committee declared.

The ABA Committee on Labor Relations of Government Employees declared that the solution to labor-management relations in government service "rests on sound administrative policies and procedures rather than restrictive statutes."

Among Postal Clerks

There is a growing belief in Washington that the legislative campaign in the next session of Congress to enact a better retirement law for federal employees may be a replay of the pay raise hassle of the last session.

Organized AFL employee groups are disturbed by increasing indications that President Eisenhower may veto any retirement bill which does not tie the federal pensions with the social security system as recommended by the Kaplan report.

Washington observers note President Eisenhower's veto of a bill to give retirement credit to government employees with previous service in federal-financed State agricultural programs. The veto came as a

surprise even to the Civil Service Commission which had recommended that the President sign the bill.

In vetoing the bill, President Eisenhower pointedly declared his intention of asking Congress next year to bring federal workers under the Social Security system.

That he has not hesitated to veto employee bills not to his liking has been proven by his two postal pay vetoes, and the classified pay bill veto.

Although a number of bills are pending in Congress, most employee organizations are supporting the Johnston-Morrison bills to give increased retirement and survivorship benefits.

Basically the bills provide for a formula of 2 1/2% of the aver-

I. L. P. E. Report

Congress this year furnished a copper-riveted example of why it is necessary for working people to take part in politics and support such organizations as Labor's League for Political Education.

If there had been more liberal Congressmen, school children of America would be assured of desperately-needed classrooms, safer and more sanitary buildings and better-paid teachers.

Instead, a Federal-aid-to-education bill barely got past a House committee — and no further. **Housing Failure**

If there had been more liberal Congressmen, fewer poor people would have to search and scratch for a decent place to live. Instead, a public housing bill was passed calling for only 45,000 more dwelling units in place of a program, backed by organized labor, for 135,000 a year for four years — or 540,000.

Taxes and the Little Man

If there had been more liberal Congressmen, the little man would have received a \$20 tax cut. Instead, he will continue to bear an unfair share of the tax load.

The Polio Mess

If there had been more liberal Congressmen, the Salk polio vaccine mess would have been straightened out quickly and every child would be certain of vaccination, especially those whose parents are unable to pay the doctor's price of \$15 for three shots. Instead, a measure was passed making free shots available for about one-third of the eligible children and expectant mothers, with each state determining how much of its share shall go to poorer kids and how much to private physicians. Even that represented a victory over the American Medical Association, organized medicine's reactionary outfit, which wanted the doctors to decide who would get the vaccine.

Social Security

If there had been more liberal Congressmen, women and totally disabled persons would be able to receive Social Security checks when they were 62 and 50 years old, respectively, instead of waiting until 65. Instead, a bill carrying those provisions failed to pass the Senate this session after the powerful AMA called the disability section a step towards "socialized medicine!" (The AFL supported provisions calling for payment to women at age 60 and to disabled people as soon

as age salary of three highest consecutive years multiplied by total years of service; optional retirement after 30 years regardless of age; elimination of the requirement that a widow of an employee must be 50 years of age in order to be eligible for survivor benefits; all annuities would be tax exempt.

Employee organizations are strongly opposed to any legislation which will combine their pension plan with social security. They feel that there are sufficient funds available now to provide additional benefits.

They point to the additional benefits Congress voted itself without recourse to social security, and all they ask is similar benefits. Many workers feel they have paid much more into the fund than workers under social security, and are entitled to proportionate return.

Most of the disagreement in past years seems to be over whether the fund should be what insurance people call "actuarially sound." In other words, the fund should have sufficient funds to pay all claims should all those covered by the system either retire or die at the same time.

Employees who disagree with this idea argue that it will never happen. The fund as of January 1st was in excess of 5 1/2 billions, and had the government paid its share, as employers do under social security, the sum would be much greater. Social security does not operate under an actuarial system, they say, yet workers are covered by the system for a 2% payment.

The federal workers distaste for the combined pension-social security plan stems from the conviction that the present plan can be broadened to give him greater benefits; social security will weaken his retirement benefits.

In the last analysis, a pension plan superior to social security is one of the reasons people work for the government, they say.

PROBE OF P. O. DEPT. POLICIES TO START SOON

The forthcoming probe by the House Civil Service and P. O. Committee of the Post Office Departments policies and operations started to sizzle with the announcement in Washington recently of the appointment of an investigating staff headed by Democrats Vincent Burke and J. Austin Lattimer.

Some Republican members of the Committee immediately expressed their concern over the appointment of Mr. Burke, who was Deputy Postmaster General during the Truman administration, to head the investigating staff. They fear that the probe may have political motivations.

Democrats, supporters of Mr. Burke deny that the investigation is politically inspired. They point to Mr. Burke's long career as a postal employee and his experience as Postmaster of Washington D. C. before becoming Deputy PMG.

Mr. Lattimer, who will assist Mr. Burke, was a special assistant to Postmaster General James Farley during the early days of the Roosevelt Administration. Also several years ago he was chief counsel to the Senate Civil Service Committee.

The House Subcommittee in charge of the investigation is headed by Congressman Dowdy (Dem. Tex.).

NEW GOVERNMENT MANUAL READY

The 1955-1956 edition of the United States Government Or-

Rolling Along

With
AL PAGE

Local No. 340 wins a two day strike at Monmouth Canning Co. The basis of settlement was that Brother Ed Washburn be reinstated back to his employment. The Company recognized Local No. 340 as Bargaining Agent for its drivers and signed a contract covering same.

Negotiations are still going on between Local No. 340 and the Carriers Employers Group.

Contract was recently signed between Local No. 340 and the Webber Brothers, Belfast, Maine covering drivers who haul for the Penobscot Poultry Co.

A joint agreement has been reached between Local No. 340 and the Cogrove Transportation Co., of Medford, Mass. This Company exclusively hauls milk and dairy products.

Fifty truck drivers employed by the A. & P. Tea Co. joined Local No. 340, Sunday Sept. 11, 1955. Negotiations will start immediately.

Brother Cassius Ireland formerly employed at McGary Transportation, in Bangor, was involved in a fatal accident Friday night Sept. 9, 1955 in Endfield, Maine. We are sorry to say that we are unable to pay to this late brother's beneficiary because he had not complied with Article XI of the current Bylaws. A **TIMELY REMINDER**: Article II (b) All dues must be paid during the month for which they are due to entitle the member to a death benefit.

Negotiations will soon start at the First National Warehouse and the Galt Block Warhouse.

Frederick A. Jones, formerly employed at Border Express in Bangor, has taken a Withdrawal card to become part of management at their Boston Terminal.

Jim Burns, Warren Patterson, Robert Markley, Jim Logue, Robert Poole, all actors within their own rights, are employed at the 20th Century Fox, Boothbay Harbor in the filming of the picture "Carousel". Since Frankie Sinatra left the scene it is reported that several of the above have been wearing bow ties and taking singing lessons. Also some of the above may be on your TV screen any time now.

Harold Wilkins driver for Warehouse Transportation recently stopped in the office on his way to Groton, Conn., for a vacation.

Russell Klin, recording secretary of Local No. 340 driver for St. Johnsbury out of Portland while on his vacation visited the Shrine at St. Anne de Beaupre, Canada.

Al King, steward at Hunnewell is now on vacation.

Organization Manual is now on sale by the Superintendent of Documents. Issued annually the official handbook of the Federal Government covers the creation and authority, organization, and functions of all branches of the Government. Included in the manual are about 40 charts showing the organization of the Government, the Senate, the House of Representatives, the departments, and major independent agencies.

A list of several hundred publications shows the types of publications available from Government establishments. Price \$1.00.

John Gregor, steward at O'Brien Trucking & Storage Co., is on vacation in Canada.

Elwin Henderson driver for Fox & Ginn, Skowhegan, Maine recently had the misfortune of breaking three fingers on his right hand.

Charles E. Hughes, formerly employed at Maine Freightways, in Portland, has taken a Withdrawal card and gone to Paris, Missouri where his home is.

Lewis Morse, employee of Border Express died suddenly of a heart attack Aug. 25, 1955 at a hotel in Boston while "laying over". Again we are sorry to say that this brother was not in compliance with Article XI of the current by-laws.

Harold Utterstrom, a suspended member of Local No. 340 formerly employed at Utterstrom Bros., and on construction died suddenly Aug. 23th

(Continued on Page 3)

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Under Supervision of
C. O. Dunton, B. J. Dorsky and
R. W. Gustin

SEPTEMBER 1955

The Official Organ of Organized Labor in Maine, Devoted to the Promotion of the Welfare of the Wage Earner and the Prosperity of Industry Through Better Understanding and Cooperation Between Employer and Employee.

An Exponent of a Square Deal for Both Sides. Constructive in Policy, Independent in Politics. Subscription, One year 50 Cents. Per Copy 5 Cents.

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Edward P. Morgan SAYS:

SOMETIMES you have to hunt for a needle in a haystack. But the trouble with the way the Federal security risk program has been operating, according to the accumulated evidence, is that we have been tearing the haystack apart, scattering it in all directions, and finding not needles, but pins.

The Communists do have spies. There has been subversion in Government. Our national security does need protection. But we have been using a scythe instead of a magnet. We have cut down countless innocent people in wild-swinging demonstrations instead of applying the needed quiet skill to draw out subversion.

In the marble-columned, red-carpeted Senate caucus room Senator Johnston's Civil Service subcommittee plots with the depressing business of investigating the Government's security program. One witness who had studied the program in detail testified that he did not know of an instance in the operation of the whole personnel security program which had flushed up a single Communist. Nobody disputed the witness, a director of the American Jewish Congress named Will Maslow. Yet

10 million citizens, including the armed forces, are affected by some phase of this program. That means that one-sixth of America's working force have their fingerprints and/or dossiers of derogatory and/or other information tucked away in Government files.

But instead of making the Government secure, the testimony ran, this data has spread suspicion, given credence to the rumors of gossips, dignified the vindictiveness of jealous husbands and wives, put a premium on the unproved accusations of envious associates or scheming superiors. And so jobs were lost, careers ruined.

All this has been established before. Why must it come up again? Perhaps because nothing we didn't see the frightful harvest that was growing. There were too caught up in the drama of fear and excitement and witchcraft. But the drama has died down. There were hardly a dozen spectators in the caucus room the other morning, lonely, almost flashless corps of cameramen, a scattering of reporters. No chants of "Mr. Chairman, Mr. Chairman; Point of order, Point of order."

But if the evidence isn't abundant enough already to force the restoration of reason to the security system one might ponder this item of testimony before the Johnston subcommittee: If President Eisenhower were an employee, he have "derogatory information" in his file for corresponding with Maxwell overlooked? Of course. But Government workers have lost their jobs for less.

This column is excerpted from the nightly broadcasts of Edward P. Morgan, ABC commentator, sponsored by the American Federation of Labor over the ABC network.

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"UNION MAID" —A Serial Story



Rolling Along

(Continued from Page Two) when he fell off the State Pier in Portland and was drowned.

Paul Minor formerly employed at the Savin Construction Co. on the Maine Turnpike has taken a Withdrawal card and is entering the University of Maine.

Donald Whitten formerly worked at Savin Construction Co. recently was issued a Sick Withdrawal card and will be at Togus Hospital for five months. Earland Brooks employed at Capitol Motors in Lewiston recently had the misfortune of breaking his foot. He will be out about six months.

Phil Rotola employed at the Pine Tree Beverage Co. in Portland recently returned from a 3 weeks vacation from Tampa, Florida with his wife and 3 children.

John Noone driver for Galt Block Warehouse out of Portland was recently in this office and leaving on a trip to Austin Texas. He recently completed a trip from Key West, Florida to Shelburne Nova Scotia.

The E. W. Penley Co. of Auburn, Maine, recently won a citation for a 6 months no accident record.

Vernon Cash formerly employed at Graf Brothers out of Portland is now working at the S. D. Warren Co. in Westbrook.

Kevin Fitzgerald night loader at the Warehouse Transportation in Portland recently was on vacation at Toronto Canada. He reports that he had a good time.

William Frost until recently employed at the Maine Freightways out of Waterville has taken a withdrawal card and headed for the mid west.

Clyde F. Russel formerly employed at the Savin Construction Co., is now a truck driver for Uncle Sam stationed at Fort

Dix. at Bell Garden's, California.
We recently received a post card from Brother Carleton Brooks that he is on vacation

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LOOKING IN

L. S. G.

This "has been" has grasped eagerly at any of the news he could glean from any press about the activities of labor in Maine.

It occurred to him that he might stir some thought along

some lines that escape the average union officer because of the press of contractual business. I like to think that all unions are ever striving to better the standards of all people who are dependent upon a weekly

wage to live on. From that approach it is very easy to see discrepancies in the activities of many locals.

I think we can all agree that when discriminations of any kind creep into a union of men and women that that organization is better off dead, buried and not mourned. There is no room for such blemishes in an organization that must forever guard its good name against the special interests opposed to the advancement of our kind.

45 YEARS OR OVER

Why then do we allow discriminations to plague those people who would become members of our unions. People, men and women, who are as capable as you and I. People who are more in need of that weekly wage than some of us are. Yes, people who are at that age where they must begin to prepare for later years when they are no longer able to bring home the pay check.

I have heard the employer deny that he shows discrimination in hiring the men and women necessary to produce his product. Yet the same persons a few hours later will tell an applicant for employment that there would be no sense in his taking the physical examination because he was too old.

It is my understanding that there are Federal Laws enclosed in the Wagner Act of old, and

more recently the Taft-Hartley Act, which would remedy the above situation but the enforcement must be made upon complaint.

Pensions

Of course, the situation which is fast becoming a bulwark to the man over 45 all over the nation has arisen through the insistence of Internationals to gain adequate pension plans. Many industries now have good pension plans for their employees which cost them a considerable amount of money. Add to that the fact that insurance rates are based on age and life expectancy and one could readily see the reasons why an employer will not hire a person 45 years old today if he believes that a person 25 years of age will be available tomorrow. In a strict business approach can you blame him for hiring the man who is not going to cost him as much money? Fortunately our approach is not on a strictly business or strictly financial basis. We work for the individual collectively. People and their welfare are our business and in our business we have a grave responsibility to all the people who we may affect in our negotiations.

It is the duty of every union officer and every member to speak out against these discriminatory programs which cast shadows on the sunlight created through the collective effort of our organizations. This is but one instance where we must be alert and take active part for the overall "Good of the Union".

Our business does not end with contractual matters, infringements and the like. Our thinking must be carried through to the end and our programs must be designed to aid all, that no bitter thought about our organization may linger in the mind of our unfortunate brother on the outside "Looking In".

Union Security Is Rule In Contracts

Washington. — The great majority of labor-management contracts around the country provide for some form of union security, with nearly two-thirds setting up a union shop.

The Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics surveyed over 1,700 major agreements in effect in 1954 covering almost 7½ million workers. They found that about 80 percent of the agreements have some requirement for union membership.

The percentage of AFL agreements calling for a union shop ran higher than the two-thirds figure, coming nearer to 77 percent.

HERE'S THE RECORD OF 84TH CONGRESS

Washington. — The first session of the 84th Congress filled 17,000 pages of the Congressional Record — and there's more to come — while passing 390 public bills and 490 private measures in its seven months of activity.

A resume of the session's activity shows the Congress approved 39,897 presidential nominations out of a total of 40,686 submitted.

The Senate put in 105 days in actual session for 559 hours and 41 minutes. The House met on 112 days for 471 hours and 19 minutes.

Senators and representatives dropped 11,914 measures into the hopper during the session with the 435-member house toppling the Senate 8,844 to 3,070.

There were 161 roll-call votes through which Senators and Congressmen went on record. The President vetoed 11 bills. None of the vetoes were overridden.

MEN !!

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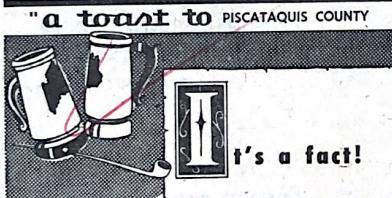
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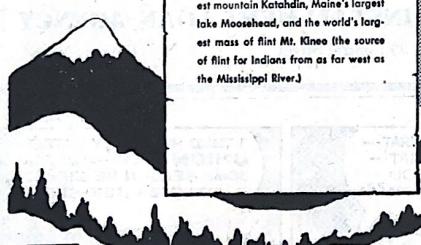
"a toast to PISCATAQUIS COUNTY



t's a fact!

The first place in the United States to receive the rays of the morning sun is Mount Katahdin in Piscataquis County.

This beautiful county of lakes, mountains and forests claims Maine's highest mountain Katahdin, Maine's largest lake Moosehead, and the world's largest mass of flint Mt. Kineo (the source of flint for Indians from as far west as the Mississippi River.)



t's also a fact!

Piscataquis County's malt beverage retailers support the U. S. Brewers Foundation's continuous effort in maintaining high standards of the sale of beer and ale. Its aim is to make certain that these beverages of moderation are dispensed only under clean, wholesome and orderly conditions, with strict observance of all laws.

Beer Belongs In Maine. Enjoy It.



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Rambling Remarks

BY THE OLD RAMBLER

Well, Labor Day has come and gone and I trust you enjoyed it and that while celebrating it you thought what an honor and privilege it is to you and all the other laboring men and women of our great country to have a holiday especially for Labor. There is no other country that I know anything about, that has one day commemorating the honor of those who toiled and labored and made their country great, the way our country is.

We have failed to a great extent in carrying out the principles of those who conceived having one day that we should get out and parade and do honor to ourselves and our unions that made it possible for us to have this day. Years ago the parade that took place in Boston was a heart stirring sight, especially the part that pertained to the teamsters. Some of the best teams anywhere were in that parade and they made a wonderful spectacle.

Those days have gone, no longer do you see a horse on the streets of Boston and if you did it would have to be a mounted policeman for they are the only ones that could get a horse through the traffic. Well, how many horses do you see on the streets of Maine?

Today Labor Day, according to the papers, seems to be the day in which to take a car, drive it just as fast as possible, and see if you can arrive safely or if you will be listed amongst those killed and injured over

the holiday. What fools we mortals be!

I understand that the Woodland Central Labor Union celebrated their forty-ninth year of holding Labor Day celebrations by putting on one of the best times they ever had. We have all got to take our hats off to them, for I wonder if all of the rest of the Central Labor Unions in Maine ever put on forty-nine celebrations.

I attended the banquet of Local 1802 at Sanford on Labor Day and saw the new officers installed. It seemed as though something was wrong. For twelve years I had seen the same President installed, but this year I saw a new President installed. Of course, I do not have to tell you the reason why this was done, for you all know that Goodall-Sanford sold out to the Burlington Mills and the Burlington Mills proceeded to liquidate them. Fortunately the Jagger Yarn Mill employees were members of Local 1802 so they took over the job of running the union. They elected as president a very capable and charming young lady. I predict she will make a fine president and that Local 1802 will continue to be a credit to the Textile Workers.

Frank Squambale, Int. Vice President from Rhode Island was present, representing the international union, also Norman LaChance from Waterville, he is international representative for Maine and installed the

officers.

It seems as if a farmer somewhere up around Presque Isle, sold some potatoes for twenty dollars and received a check in payment, he took the check into the bank and asked the cashier to cash it and give him the money in one dollar bills. This was done and the farmer counted them over and over, after he had done it several times, the cashier said, didn't I give you enough money, the farmer continued to count it again, then stopped long enough to say "barely."

After a hectic campaign at the Bath Iron Works, and an election on Sept. 1st which was not in favor of either the AFL or the CIO and then another held on Sept. 15th which was won by the CIO by 42 votes, this does not seem to be for the interest of the people who are employed by the company nor for Sagadahoc County as a whole.

Heard a good story while in there on their election. One of the boys who was there from Philadelphia was talking with Ken Snowdon and asked him how fast the Iron Works were able to turn out destroyers during World War II. Ken said I don't know exact figures but about one every 3 weeks.

"Huh," said the other fellow, "during World War II I was in the CIO and at the yard where I was working the slogan was 'don't give up the ship' and we certainly lived up to it, for they didn't give it up for two years."

So brothers of Grover Lodge if you read this, don't give up the union of Boilermakers, for after a year of trial and disappointment, you will then come

back stronger and better than ever, for you can fool part of the people all the time, but you cannot fool sincere union men at any time.

The majority of the men at the ship yard are sincere men who believe in honest union principles and will be gladly welcomed back for they will not be satisfied by the frosting on the cake.

The fall and winter seasons are off us again so let's cast off that summer lethargy and begin to take an active part again in the activities of our unions.

Be a regular attendant at the meetings;

Be a force for good in the

\$1 MINIMUM MEANS INCOME TO FARMERS

Huron, S. Dak. — The increase in the minimum wage to \$1 an hour will benefit the Nation's farmers, the South Dakota Union Farmer reminds its readers in an editorial.

The paper said that \$497 million would be added to purchasing power, and of this amount \$138 million would go for food, and thus help the farmer sell his products.

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Merger Conference Finds Complete Support For AFL - CIO Unification

Chicago — Overwhelming approval of the broad terms of the merger agreement between the AFL and CIO was indicated at a special conference here of more than 500 officers of AFL unions.

A few proposals for changing provisions of the proposed merger constitution were tossed into the hopper for consideration by the Executive Council and some misgivings were voiced as to how the merger might work out in particular situations, but on the whole the two-hour conference indicated gen-

eral agreement that the merger would be of incalculable benefit to the labor movement and the workers of America.

The conference was opened by AFL President George Meany, who dispelled at the outset misunderstandings and rumored objections, by a forceful presentation of the facts.

Meany outlined the progress of the merger negotiations. The conferees, he said, had to decide between two approaches. One method would have been to try to iron out all conflicts beforehand, an effort which might

be endless. The alternative was to agree on the principle of merger and then seek to work out the problems. The latter method was considered advisable.

The AFL president told the conference that the merger had not been worked out as in collective bargaining, wherein each side seeks to get the utmost advantage for itself. Instead there had been an effort to reach mutual agreement on what was best for both.

Meany emphasized that the whole plan of merger was in the constitution; there were no secret agreements or deals. Everyone was pledged to protect the integrity of existing organizations, and no amalgama-

tion would take place without the full and complete agreement by each of the organizations involved, no matter how small.

The Department of Industrial Organizations, provided for in the constitution, would not be a separate and competing body within the whole. It would function exactly as do other departments now in the AFL.

The compelling reasons for labor unity were convincingly set forth by the AFL leader.

"There are millions of workers still unorganized," he said. "The so-called 'Right-to-Work' laws have been enacted by 18 States. The Taft-Hartley Act is still on the books."

Moreover, he warned a new drive has been launched to restrict the political activity of unions through State legislation like the Catlin Act in Wisconsin.

Certainly the merger would mean greater political activity by organized labor, Meany affirmed, "but not for the purpose of running the country, nor to horsewhip the rest of the citizenry." On the contrary, he said, labor sought only a fair chance to obtain Federal and

AFL COUNCIL MEETS IN NYC OCTOBER 24

The AFL Executive Council will meet in New York City Oct. 24 to prepare a program for the Federation's convention in that city Dec. 1.

Main business of the convention will be to ratify the final form of the constitution for the merged AFL-CIO. Once the constitution is approved in identical form by the CIO, which meets in convention concurrently, the new merged organization will be ready to open its first convention Dec. 5 in New York.

State legislation of benefit to all the people.

In the same way, Meany assailed charges voiced by Big Business in the press that the merger would result in labor monopoly. He stressed that the added power enjoyed by labor would be used as a force for good in the life of the nation.

"This is a great challenge we face," Meany told the assembled union officials. "I am confident that we do not lack the intelligence to meet that challenge."

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